

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 899 927 A1

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
03.03.1999 Bulletin 1999/09

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: H04M 1/57

(21) Application number: 98107980.9

(22) Date of filing: 30.04.1998

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: Takahashi, Shiro
Higashihiroshima-shi, Hiroshima (JP)

(74) Representative:
Müller, Frithjof E., Dipl.-Ing.
Patentanwälte
MÜLLER & HOFFMANN,
Innere Wiener Strasse 17
81667 München (DE)

(30) Priority: 29.08.1997 JP 233629/97

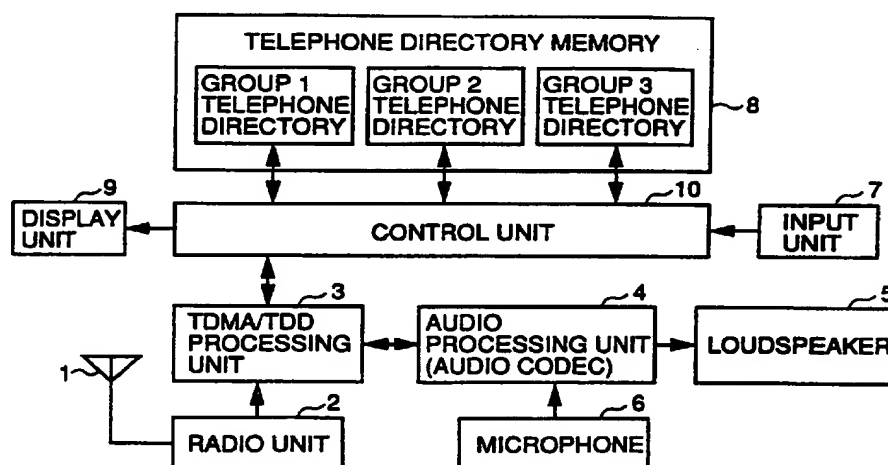
(71) Applicant:
SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA
Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu 545 (JP)

(54) **Communication apparatus notifying calling information to called party**

(57) A communication apparatus includes an antenna (1), a TDMA/TDD processing unit (3), a radio unit (2) provided between the antenna (1) and the TDMA/TDD processing unit (3) for data transfer, a telephone directory memory (8) that stores a plurality of telephone numbers divided into a plurality of groups, and a control unit (10) that determines which group in the

telephone directory memory (8) an input telephone number belongs to and provides control of whether to notify calling information to a called party via the TDMA/TDD processing unit (3), the radio unit (2) and the antenna (1) according to the determination result.

FIG.1



EP 0 899 927 A1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a communication apparatus such as a PHS (Personal Handy-phone System) terminal, a PDC (Personal Digital Cellular Communication System) terminal, a general telephone set, and the like.

Description of the Background Art

[0002] There are communication apparatuses such as a PHS terminal, a PDC terminal, and a general telephone set that have the function to notify information of the calling party such as the caller's telephone number and to provide a display of the information from the calling party at the called party at the time of a call incoming. There are also some communication apparatuses that have a call back function that utilizes stored information from a calling party for transmission and a select call function for altering the audio of the ring back tone when there is a call from a predetermined calling party according to the information from the calling party.

[0003] Usability has been improved significantly at the called party by the above apparatuses since the called party can confirm the calling party before responding to the call. However, there is a possibility that information of the calling party such as the telephone number will be known to an inappropriate third party in the event that an erroneous calling operation is made at the caller side.

[0004] To obviate the above problem, an apparatus is proposed that allows the user to designate whether to supply calling information or not. Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 8-331233 discloses an apparatus that is provided with a flag that can be set at the time of registering a telephone number into the telephone directory to designate whether to notify the calling information or not. In the former apparatus, the setting once made becomes valid for all subsequent calls. For example, once this function is set as "off", notification of the calling information is suppressed for all subsequent calls. Therefore, the possibility of the calling information being sent to an improper third party due to erroneous calling operation is eliminated. However, there is a disadvantage that in the event of a proper calling operation to an intended called party, the information of the calling party could not be informed, so that the call back function and select call function, if equipped in the communication apparatus of the called party, cannot be used. The latter apparatus has the advantage of sending the calling information only to the intended called party since determination is made at the time of the call originating to notify or not the calling information by means of the flag that is registered in association with the telephone

number. However, this apparatus is disadvantageous in that a complex operation is required by the user since the flag has to be registered in addition to registration of a telephone number. Furthermore, a memory having a large capacity is required since the data region for flag registration must be provided for each telephone number. There was a problem that the cost and size of the apparatus are increased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] An object of the present invention is to provide a communication apparatus that can notify calling information to only a desired party without tedious operation of telephone number input by the user, and without increase in cost and size.

[0006] According to an aspect of the present invention, a communication apparatus includes an antenna, a TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) / TDD (Time Division Duplex) processing unit, a radio unit provided between the antenna and the TDMA/TDD processing unit for data transfer, a telephone directory memory storing a plurality of telephone numbers classified into a plurality of groups, and a control unit that identifies which group in the telephone directory memory the input telephone number belongs to to provide control of whether to notify calling information or not to a called party via the TDMA/TDD processing unit, the radio unit, and the antenna according to the determination result.

[0007] Since the control unit determines which group the input telephone number belongs to in the telephone directory memory and provides control of whether to notify the calling information to the called party according to the determination result, the calling information can be provided at the time of the call originating to only a predetermined party. Therefore, the complicated operation required of the user can be reduced. Also, the memory for storing a flag is no longer required. It is therefore possible to suppress increase in the cost in accordance with additional functions and increase in the size of the communication apparatus.

[0008] The foregoing and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] Fig. 1 is a block diagram schematically showing the electrical structure of a communication apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a flow chart for describing the operation of calling information notification setting in the communication apparatus of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a flow chart for describing the operation in the event of a call originating by the communication apparatus of the present invention.

Fig. 4A shows a flag indicating whether or not to notify a calling number, and Fig. 4B shows a flag representing the set state of the calling number notification for each group.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0010] A communication apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the drawings.

[0011] Referring to Fig. 1, a communication apparatus includes an antenna 1, a radio unit 2 for transmitting to or receiving from a base station not shown data via antenna 1, a TDMA/TDD processing unit 3 for assigning a communication channel to a time slot in a radio line and for deassemble/assemble of a radio frame having a control channel and a communication channel, an audio processing unit 4 for converting an analog audio signal into a digital signal and a digital audio signal into an analog signal to compress and expand a digital signal, a loudspeaker 5 for providing the analog signal converted by audio processing unit 4 as audio outside, a microphone 6 for collecting external audio and supplying the same as an analog signal to audio processing unit 4, an input unit 7 for entry of a telephone number and entry of activate/deactivate designation of various functions, a telephone directory memory 8 for storing a telephone number entered by input unit 7, a display unit 9 for providing display of a telephone number input through input unit 7 or read out from telephone directory memory 8 or according to a calling number sent from a base station not shown, and a control unit 10 for providing control of each component.

[0012] Telephone directory memory 8 substantially includes three registration groups as shown in Fig. 1. Registration of a telephone number into a relevant group is effected by designating telephone number registration together with entry of the telephone number through input unit 7. Control unit 10 provides a display of a registration group select screen on display unit 9. The user specifies a group through input unit 7 while referring to display unit 9. The input telephone number is stored in the designated group. Control unit 10 includes a flag indicating whether a calling number is to be notified or not and a flag indicating the set state of a calling number notification for each group.

[0013] The operation of setting a group that provides calling number notification in the communication apparatus of the above structure will be described hereinafter with reference to the flow chart of Fig. 2.

[0014] When calling number notification group setting is designated by input unit 7, control unit 10 provides a display of the telephone number notification setting screen for each group on display unit 9. At this stage, the user selects a desired group through input unit 7

(step F1). Control unit 10 sets the bit corresponding to the group selected by input unit 7 into the auxiliary flag MASK (steps F2, F3 and F4).

[0015] Then, designation of whether or not to notify a calling number is set by input unit 7 (step F5). When control unit 10 determines that the designation corresponds to a notify designation (step F6: YES), control unit 10 obtains the OR of the auxiliary flag MASK and the grouped calling number display set flag "Flag", and sets the relevant bit of "Flag" to 1 (step F7). When control unit 10 determines that the designation corresponds to an inhibited notification (step F6: NO), control unit 10 obtains the AND of the inverted version of each bit of auxiliary flag MASK (step F8) and the grouped calling number display set flag "Flag", and sets the relevant bit of "Flag" to 0 (step F9).

[0016] According to the above-described control, the user can set an arbitrary group in which a telephone number is registered as a group that allows calling number notification or a group that suppresses notification of the calling number.

[0017] The calling operation will be described hereinafter with reference to the flow chart of Fig. 3.

[0018] Upon designation of displaying the telephone directory by the user through input unit 7, control unit 10 provides display of a group select screen on display unit 9. When a group is selected through input unit 7 at this stage, control unit 10 determines whether the selected group corresponds to the group that allows calling number notification by referring to the grouped calling number display set flag (step F11). When determination is made that the group corresponds to a calling number notify group (F11: YES), the calling number notify flag is set to 1 (step F12). When NO at step F11, the calling number notify flag is set to 0 (step F13).

[0019] The telephone number registered in the selected group is sequentially displayed on display unit 9 by designation through input unit 7 (step F14). When a call is designated through input unit 7 at the time point where the required destination party is provided on the display (step F15), control unit 10 identifies the calling number notify flag (step F16). When the flag is 1 (step F16: YES), the calling number is set to the transmission data (step F17), and despatched (step F18). When the flag is 0 (step F16: NO), a call is issued without setting the calling number in the transmission data (step F18).

[0020] According to the above control, a calling number can be notified to only the party of a desired telephone number without having to register a flag for each telephone number. Therefore, the data capacity of the memory can be suppressed. Also, the usability can be improved since a telephone number is classified and registered into a predetermined group.

[0021] The control is not limited to the above-described case where a call is effected using the telephone directory. For example, a telephone number entered through input unit 7 can be compared with the telephone number stored in telephone directory mem-

ory 8 to identify the group in which the matching telephone number is registered. Determination is made whether that group is a group corresponding to a calling number notify group, whereby a call is effected according to the determined result. By effecting a call without notifying the calling number when a telephone number that matches the input telephone numbers is not stored in telephone directory memory 8, the possibility of the calling number being erroneously notified due to erroneous input of a telephone number can be prevented.

[0022] According to the communication apparatus of the present invention, determination of whether or not to notify calling information to a called party is made automatically according to the group in which the telephone number is registered. A call is despatched according to the determined result. Since the calling information can be notified only at the time of a call to a predetermined party, no complicated operation for setting a flag is required. The complicated operation that had to be carried out by the user is reduced. Also, the memory for the flag is dispensable. Increase in the cost due to additional new features and increase in the size of the apparatus can be prevented.

[0023] Since the group that allows notification of calling information to a called party can be selected arbitrarily at the user side, the number of called parties intended of notification of the calling information can be set arbitrarily even when the number of parties that can be registered in a group is predetermined.

[0024] Although the present invention has been described and illustrated in detail, it is clearly understood that the same is by way of illustration and example only and is not to be taken by way of limitation, the spirit and scope of the present invention being limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

Claims

1. A communication apparatus comprising:

storage means (8) for storing a plurality of telephone numbers divided into a plurality of groups; and

communication means (2, 3, 10) for determining which group an input telephone number belongs to in said storage means (8) to determine whether calling information is to be notified to a called party according to the determination result and effecting a call originating.

2. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communication means (2, 3, 10) effects a call originating without notifying the calling information to the called party when said input telephone number does not belong to any group in said storage means (8).

3. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

display means (9) for displaying a predetermined telephone number from the plurality of groups stored in said storage means (8); and select means (7) for selecting a telephone number from said telephone number displayed on said display means (9);

wherein said communication means (2, 3, 10) determines which group the telephone number selected by said select means (7) belongs to in said storage means (8) to determine whether to notify the calling information to the called party according to a determination result and effects the call originating.

4. The communication apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said display means (9) provides display of a telephone number for each group out of the plurality of groups stored in said storage means (8).

5. A communication apparatus comprising:

an antenna (1);

a TDMA/TDD processing unit (3);

a radio unit (2) provided between said antenna (1) and said TDMA/TDD processing unit (3) for data transfer;

a telephone directory memory (8) that stores a plurality of telephone numbers divided into a plurality of groups; and

a control unit (10) that determines which group in said telephone directory memory (8) an input telephone number belongs to and provides control of whether to notify calling information to a called party via said TDMA/TDD processing unit (3), said radio unit (2) and said antenna (1) according to the determination result.

6. The communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control unit (10) effects a call originating without notifying the calling information to the called party when said input telephone number does not belong to any group in said telephone directory memory (8).

7. The communication apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a display unit (9) that provides a display of a predetermined telephone number from the plurality of groups stored in said telephone directory memory (8); and

an input unit (7) that selects a telephone number from the telephone number displayed on said display unit (9);

wherein said control unit (10) determines which group the telephone number selected by said

input unit (7) belongs to in said telephone directory memory (8) and provides control of whether to notify the calling information to the called party via said TDMA/TDD processing unit (3), said radio unit (2) and said antenna (1) according to the determination result.

8. The communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said display unit (9) provides display of a telephone number for each group out from the plurality of groups stored in said telephone directory memory (8).

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

5

FIG. 1

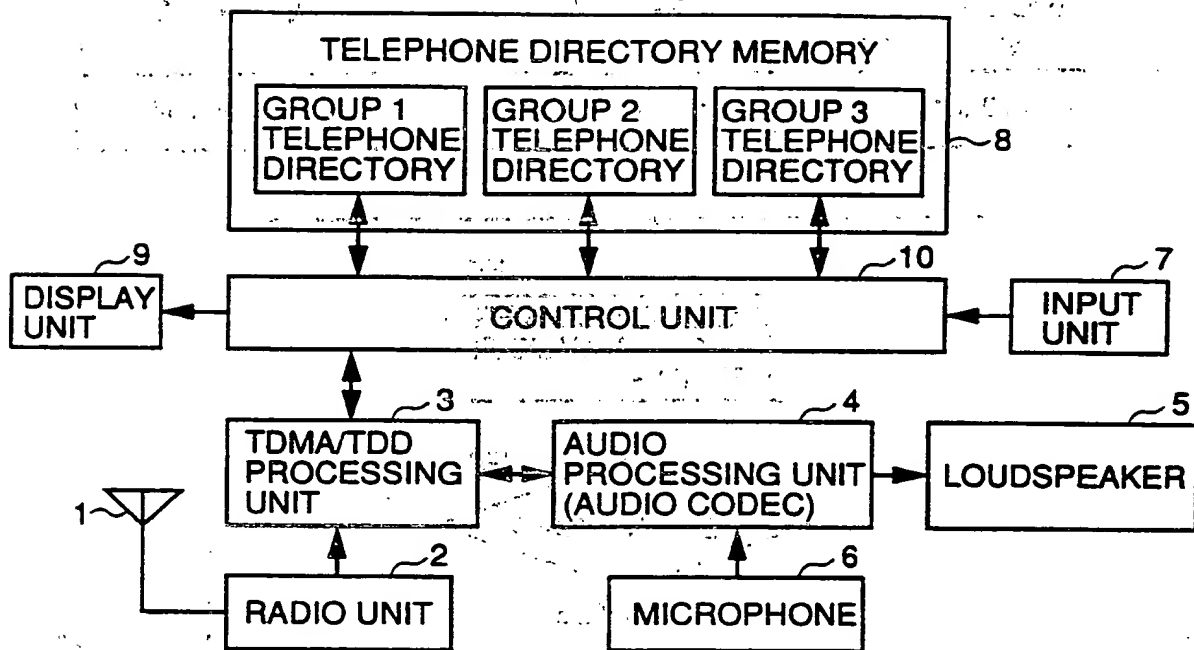


FIG.2

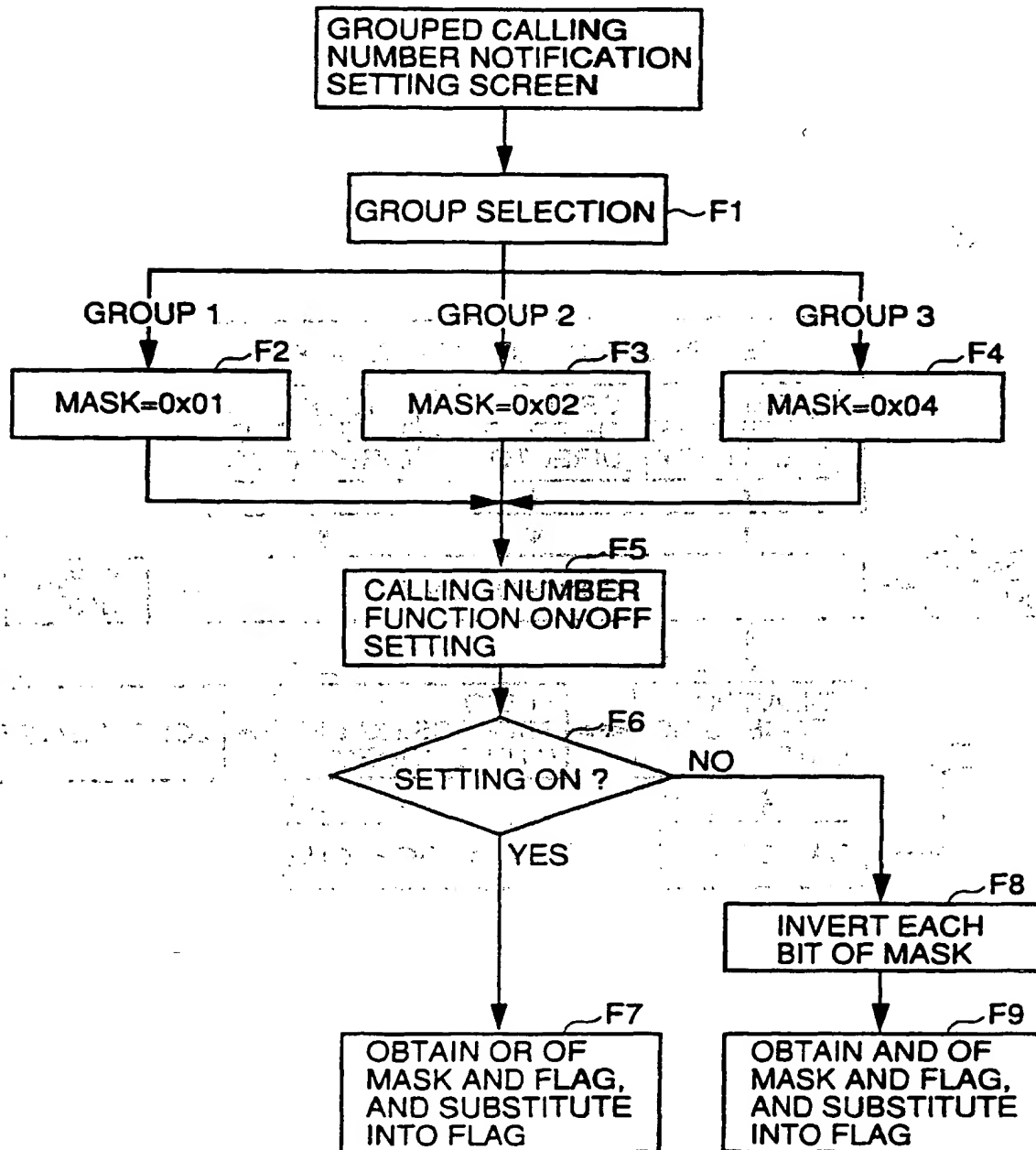


FIG.3

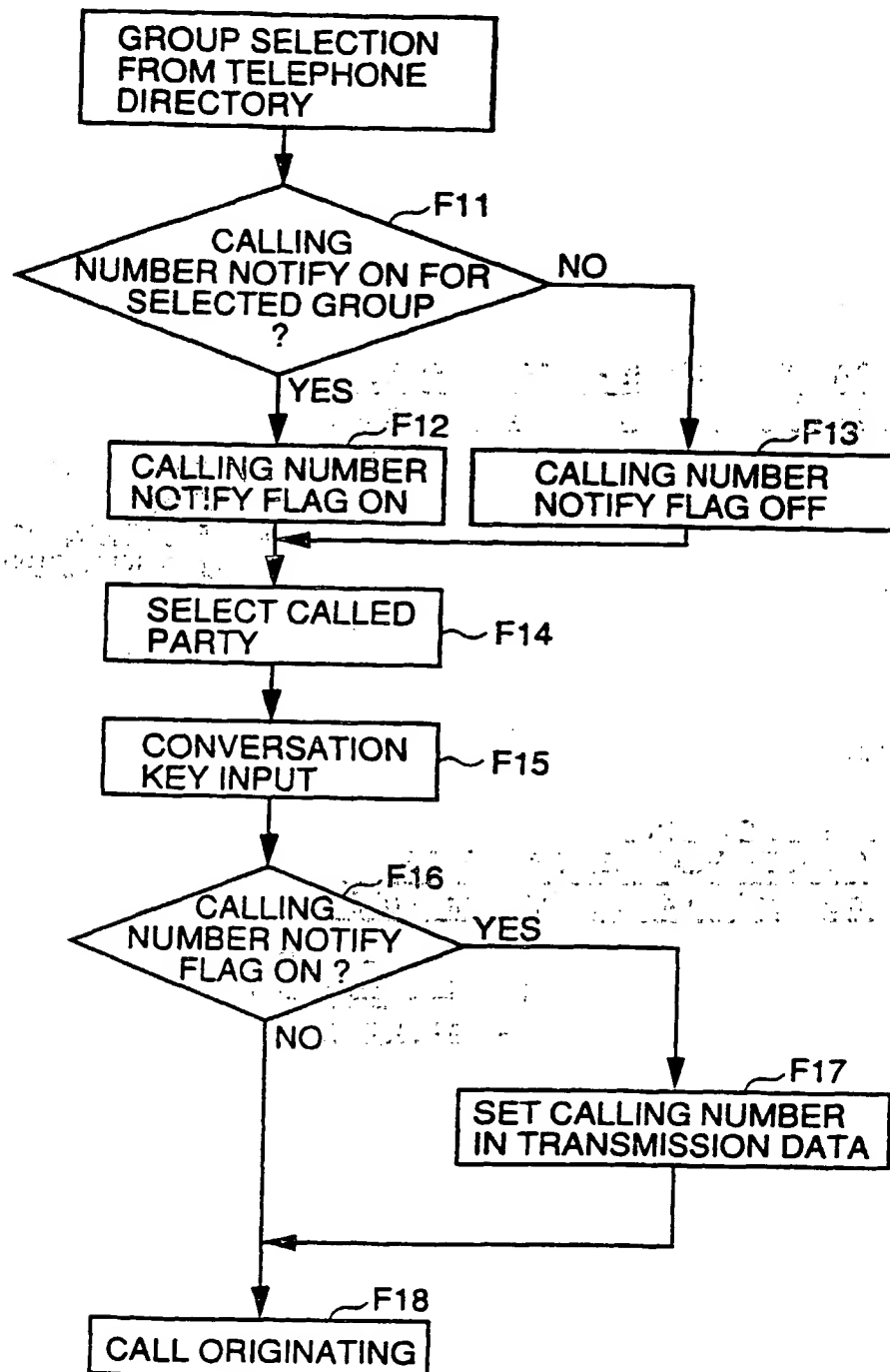


FIG.4A

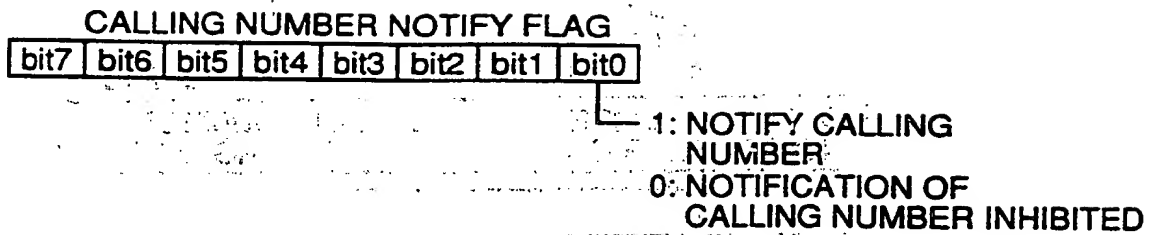
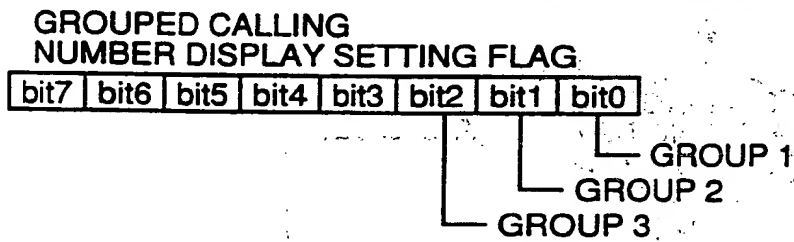


FIG.4B





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 10 7980

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A,D	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 097, no. 004, 30 April 1997 & JP 08 331233 A (SANYO-ELECTRIC CO LTD), 13 December 1996 * abstract *	1-8	H04M1/57
A	DE 38 15 908 A (TELEFONBAU & NORMALZEIT GMBH) 23 November 1989 * column 1, line 54 - column 4, line 44; figure 1 *	1,2	
A	PENDLETON J: "THE TELCO THAT KNEW TOO MUCH" TELEPHONE ENGINEER & MANAGEMENT, vol. 94, no. 1, March 1990, pages 40-43, XP002057008 CHICAGO (US)	1,2	
A	US 5 033 076 A (MAZUR ET AL) 16 July 1991 * column 3, line 35 - column 4, line 56; figure 1 *	1,2	
P,X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 098, no. 002, 30 January 1998 & JP 09 284382 A (CANON INC), 31 October 1997 * abstract *	1,2	
E	EP 0 843 489 A (ERICSSON) 20 May 1998 * column 2, line 24 - column 5, line 22; figures 1-3 *	1,2	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 14 December 1998	Examiner Delangue, P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 10 7980

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

14-12-1998

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 3815908	A	23-11-1989	NONE	
US 5033076	A	16-07-1991	CA 2030439 C	13-09-1994
			CA 2030439 A	01-08-1991
			DE 69027417 D	18-07-1996
			DE 69027417 T	28-11-1996
			EP 0439927 A	07-08-1991
			JP 4330898 A	18-11-1992
EP 0843489	A	20-05-1998	GB 2319430 A	20-05-1998

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)